

Whereas, The International Union for Conservation of Nature estimates the global population of the common raven as greater than 16 million and trending upwards, thus classifying it as a species of least concern; and

Whereas, A known cause of decline in the sage grouse population is egg depredation by the common raven, and research conducted at Idaho State University has suggested that reductions in the raven population significantly increase sage grouse nest success; and

Whereas, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has identified the common raven as the most highly visible predator of hatching and juvenile desert tortoises, and research published by the Western Ecological Research Center of the United States Geological Survey recommends controlling certain raven populations to assist in the recovery of desert tortoise populations; and

Whereas, The common raven is a protected species under regulations adopted pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, 16 U.S.C. §§1703 et seq., which drastically curtails the ability of this State to manage the population of the common raven in order to protect sage grouse nests and desert tortoises: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly,* That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the United States Congress to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or take any other appropriate action to ensure that the common raven is not a protected species under that Act; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to:

1. Work with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to decrease common raven populations in this State; and

2. Adopt regulations allowing the State of Nevada to manage the common raven population and reduce the number of common ravens in this State; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the President of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, the President of the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, the Chair of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and the Executive Director of the Western Governors' Association; and be it further

*Resolved,* That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-36. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States to allow an additional 25,000 refugee visas for certain displaced individuals, with preference for placement in Michigan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 9

Whereas, The United States has long been a safe harbor for persecuted foreign nationals. Through the U.S. refugee visa program, individuals and their families who are harassed, oppressed, or have faced harassment or oppression at home because of their race, religion, nationality, public opinion, or social association can find relief in the U.S. When a humanitarian crisis occurs, the U.S. may also grant eligible individuals refugee visas. Once in the country, federal resettlement agencies help match refugees with local communities that can help support their needs; and

Whereas, The number of refugee visas available is determined and set by the Presi-

dent of the United States. In consultation with the cabinet and the House and Senate committees on the judiciary, the President assesses all concerns of humanitarian and national interest to determine the number of visas that will be available for the upcoming fiscal year; and

Whereas, The recent crisis in Syria and Iraq has forced hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, largely from religious minorities in the region—many of which are Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, and Yazidis—from their hometowns that have been ransacked by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Those displaced persons are unable to return to their homes, and most do not have access to resources needed to fulfill basic needs, including food, water, and shelter. Moreover, these refugees face constant fear of persecution due to nothing more than the faith they claim, and their pronouncement of faith has led to violence as explicit as crucifixions, beheadings, and slavery. Minimal support has been offered to many of the more than three million Iraqis refugees, two million of which were displaced last year alone, and those fortunate to remain in temporary shelters are overburdening and overcrowding neighboring nations and communities who stand on constant guard for fear that they will be the next target of ISIL. As this regional conflict endures, the displacement and imminent migration and persecution of refugees will continue; and

Whereas, Displaced Iraqi refugees must be offered relief from this regional instability and granted entry into the United States. Iraqi refugees have complemented our American society with a proven history of contributing to the economic and social well-being of this nation. In the Chaldean or Catholic Iraqi community of Metro Detroit, which is the largest concentration of Chaldeans outside of Iraq, 61 percent of households founded their own business, and this network of businesses is indispensable to the local economy. Moreover, organizations like the Chaldean Community Foundation offer resources to bind and strengthen the community as well as welcome and support refugees, in part by using community businesses to invest in new members and encourage the advancement of the community; and

Whereas, The current allotment of refugee visas may not be adequate to accommodate these individuals. When an unforeseen emergency arises, the President has the flexibility to issue emergency refugee visas for an affected group if the remaining annual allotment is insufficient to assist these displaced individuals, and

Whereas, The Chaldean Church and its bishop have garnered support for this request and driven a body of people able and willing to sustain and support the incoming refugees. The community stands ready to assist persecuted Iraqis and victims of war rebuild their lives in the U.S.: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives,* That we urge the President of the United States to allow an additional 25,000 refugee visas for displaced Iraqis, being the Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, and Yazidis displaced because of their faith; and be it further

*Resolved,* That we urge that these refugees be given preference for placement in the state of Michigan; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. VITTER for the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

\*Douglas J. Kramer, of Kansas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 1522. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1523. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1524. A bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1525. A bill to block any action from being taken to finalize or give effect to a certain proposed rule governing the Federal child support enforcement program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1526. A bill to amend title 10 and title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, to amend title 31 and 41, United States Code, to improve the payment protections available to construction contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for work performed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1527. A bill to enable more responsible and efficient spending on Department of State activities and foreign operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.